



Ethiopia

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Country Snapshot

Population:	81 million
Life expectancy at birth:	55 years
Adult literacy rate:	36%
Access to improved water source:	42%
GDP per capita (PPP):*	US\$779
Infant mortality rate:	69 per 1,000 live births
Maternal mortality rate:	720 per 100,000 live births
HIV prevalence:	2.1%

Sources: UNICEF State of the World's Children Report 2010, *UNDP Human Development Report 2009

Program Overview CARE started working in Ethiopia in 1984 in response to severe drought and famine that devastated the population and claimed the lives of nearly one million people. Since then, the organization's activities have expanded to address the root causes of poverty and vulnerability. CARE's programs focus on the areas of livelihoods and food security, sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, education, governance, water and sanitation, and emergency preparedness and response. As part of CARE Ethiopia's development of a focused and long-term program approach to poverty, the office targets three groups of people: pastoralist girls, chronically food-insecure rural women, and poor young girls living in cities and on the outskirts of urban areas.

Health

CARE's health program focuses on addressing the underlying causes of poor health outcomes, with a particular emphasis on reproductive health, and the health of mothers and children more generally. CARE aims to complement government programs by ensuring that community-level work aligns with the government's goal of ensuring universal primary health care services and that best practices in community-led health improvements influence government policy choices.

CARE works towards the elimination of the practice of female genital cutting and on improving access to quality health services for women and girls. In providing support to the Ministry of Health, CARE assists in the design and implementation of communication strategies to disseminate information to families about medicines for malaria and the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS. CARE Ethiopia aims to support the government's work in HIV/AIDS care and prevention by implementing projects in high prevalence areas such as urban communities and through awareness-raising components in CARE's rural projects. CARE implements projects to reduce the socio-economic impact of HIV/AIDS on groups of women, orphans and other vulnerable children; this includes through vocational training and establishing village savings and loan programs. In addition, CARE's work addresses the crucial issues of gender-based

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violence that affects orphans and vulnerable children. CARE is also working on behavioural change to eliminate the practices of bride price, bride abduction, and early marriage in Ethiopia.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

CARE strives to improve the health and well being of communities by reducing the incidence of water and sanitation-related diseases in the South Gondar Zone of Amhara National Regional State. CARE also runs a regional program to facilitate learning and the sharing of best practices for water resource management among pastoralists. The goal is to reduce rural poverty by using water more productively and building community assets for pastoralists.

Livelihoods and Food Security

CARE Ethiopia's livelihoods and food security interventions focus on agricultural and pastoral communities. CARE works with partner organizations to implement a program in the Mendera Triangle where pastoralist livelihoods are under threat from repeated cycles of drought. In addition, CARE supports village savings and loan association members to engage in income-generating activities to support their families and help the transition from emergency relief to recovery. CARE also helps pastoralist communities prepare for and reduce the impact of recurrent drought cycles. In order to improve the livelihoods of farming communities, CARE works to empower poor households to make informed decisions about scarce resources, while facilitating their entry into markets and access to informal and formal financial products and services.

Education

CARE's goal in this area is to improve the quality of education, increase the number of girls enrolled in schools, strengthen the organization of parent-teacher associations, and ensure access to food, water, sanitation and hygiene at schools. Each extra year of primary education that a girl receives boosts her wages later in

life by 10 to 20 percent, contributing to women's economic empowerment. CARE views education from a holistic perspective: the knowledge and skills that girls gain by learning, combined with practical experience, allows them to exercise their leadership skills.

Governance

CARE currently implements an urban governance program in Dire Dawa, and seeks to incorporate good governance into all projects. CARE Ethiopia also strives for accountability within its own operations, and has an advisory board, composed of Ethiopians working in different sectors, which solicits continuous feedback on the organization's work. CARE also uses tools such as community score cards and other feedback mechanisms to ensure accountability to beneficiaries.

Emergency Response

CARE implements emergency programs in the areas of nutrition, food aid, agriculture and livelihoods, and water and sanitation. In response to drought and malnutrition, CARE is part of a large-scale emergency food relief intervention, and provides support to mothers and children, including through direct nutritional supplements. CARE assists vulnerable households by improving access to safe drinking water and distributing supplies to improve and sustain the health and livelihoods of people affected by severe drought.

Major Donors

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Food for Peace (FFP), the Embassy of Norway, Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), Proctor & Gamble, Souter Charitable Trust, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), UK Department for International Development (DFID), European Commission (EC), European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (OCHA), Austrian Development Agency (ADA), Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Howard G. Buffett Foundation, Richard & Rhoda Goldman Fund, Nike Foundation, Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), and private donors.

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